

REMARKS

Claims 7-9 and 12 are presently in the application. Claims 1-6, 10, 11, 13 and 14 have been canceled.

Reconsideration of the rejection of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as unpatentable over Japan 10-225048 in view of the admitted prior art in combination with Haile (US 4,917,625) is respectfully requested.

Claim 7 has been amended to include the language of claim 10 and to specify that the plug tabs (18) of the other contact group (16) protrude **at right angles** from an underside surface of the adapter body (20; 20') close to a second end (202) of the adapter body (20; 20').

Claim 12 has been rewritten in independent and is directed to the embodiment illustrated in applicants' Fig. 5. As shown and described in the specification, this embodiment includes an adapter 15" embodied as a flat plastic plate 23 and the contacts of the two contact groups 16, 17 are comprised of plug tabs 18, 19 affixed in the plastic plate 23, wherein the plug tabs 18 of the first contact group 16 protrude from one side of the plastic plate 23 and the plug tabs 19 of the second contact group 17 protrude from the other side of the plastic plate 23

Fig. 10 of Japan 10-225048 seems to show an adapter 72a with a contact 83. It also appears that the contact is formed with a male terminal at each end. However, none of Japan 10-225048, the admitted prior art and Haile teach or suggest an electric motor-and-gear assembly for driving automotive power accessories of the type recited in claim 10 including an adapter having an adapter body a first end with a recess formed therein in which plug tabs of one contact

group are disposed and can be accessed and plug tabs of the other contact group protrude at right angles from an underside surface of the adapter body close to a second end of the adapter body.

In addition, none of Japan 10-225048, the admitted prior art and Haile teach or suggest an electric motor-and-gear assembly for driving automotive power accessories of the type recited in claim 12 including an adapter embodied as a flat plastic plate and plug tabs of the one contact group protrude from one side of the plastic plate and the plug tabs of the other contact group protrude from the other side of the plastic plate.

To establish prima facie obviousness of a claimed invention, all the claim limitations must be taught or suggested by the prior art. In re Royka, 490 F.2d 981, 180 USPQ 580 (CCPA 1974). See, also, MPEP 2143.03.

Since none of Japan 10-225048, the admitted prior art and Haile teach or suggest an electric motor-and-gear assembly for driving automotive power accessories of the type recited in claim 10 including an adapter having an adapter body a first end with a recess formed therein in which plug tabs of one contact group are disposed and can be accessed and plug tabs of the other contact group protrude at right angles from an underside surface of the adapter body close to a second end of the adapter body or an electric motor-and-gear assembly for driving automotive power accessories of the type recited in claim 12 including an adapter embodied as a flat plastic plate and plug tabs of the one contact group protrude from one side of the plastic plate and the plug tabs of the other contact group protrude from the other side of the plastic plate, independent claims 10 and 12 are not rendered obvious by the combined teachings of the applied prior art.

The examiner recognizes these deficiencies of the references, but dismisses them as “obvious design variations.” However, an advantage of applicants’ adapter over that taught by the prior art is that the claimed adapters require very little installation space perpendicular to the housing cap, making it easier to install in vehicles. None of the applied prior art references have this advantage.

Reconsideration of the rejection of the claims under 35 USC 103(a) as unpatentable over Yamamoto et al (US 6,203,293) in view of Yu (US 6,022,189), the admitted prior art, Sohner et al (US 4,331,122), Gladd et al (US 4,239,319), Dolin, Jr. (US 5,192,231) and Murari et al (US 5,594,276) is respectfully requested.

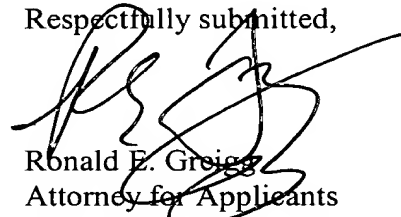
Again, none of Yamamoto et al, Yu, the admitted prior art, Sohner et al, Gladd et al, Dolin, Jr. and Murari et al teaches or suggests every limitation of independent claims 10 and 12. Specifically, none of the applied prior art references teach or suggest an electric motor-and-gear assembly for driving automotive power accessories of the type recited in claim 10 including an adapter having an adapter body a first end with a recess formed therein in which plug tabs of one contact group are disposed and can be accessed and plug tabs of the other contact group protrude at right angles from an underside surface of the adapter body close to a second end of the adapter body or an electric motor-and-gear assembly for driving automotive power accessories of the type recited in claim 12 including an adapter embodied as a flat plastic plate and plug tabs of the one contact group protrude from one side of the plastic plate and the plug tabs of the other contact group protrude from the other side of the plastic plate. Therefore, claims 10 and 12 are

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not rendered obvious by the combined teachings of Yamamoto et al, Yu, the admitted prior art,
Sohner et al, Gladd et al, Dolin, Jr. and Murari et al.

Entry of the amendment and allowance of the claims is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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